

AYA AUSTRIA

ACADEMIC YEAR ABROAD

BGSU COLLEGE OF ARTS & Sciences
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Letter from Salzburg, May 2015

“Komm lieber Mai und mache/ die Bäume wieder grün.”

May is upon us and promises to bring those rain showers that will complete the spring greening process here in Salzburg. I've begun my letter from Salzburg with the first line of a poem that Mozart set to music in his last piano concerto (KV 595, final movement), an uplifting melody also so apt for this time of year. The more often I'm in Salzburg—especially in spring—the more certain I am that this is both a cultural and geographical oasis! I get the sense from our students that they feel that way, too. Many of us have dusted off our hiking boots once again and scramble up the Gaisberg on weekends, weather and time permitting. Some of us are training for the big Untersberg hike, which we can undertake when the snows have finally melted at the top. (Maybe I, too, will make it this year!)

Rest is in order when climbing the Gaisberg.



AYA Students leaving the University



May is full of excursions: We kick off the month with the annual Maifest at the Freilichtmuseum Großgmain, although this year we got rained out. On the second Saturday in the month, we will venture to Berchtesgaden to tour the Dokumentationszentrum Obersalzburg (Institut f. Zeitgeschichte München-Berlin). A highlight of the semester is, of course, our Berlin excursion over Pentecost, which will be followed by another foray into the past at the end of the May, an excursion to Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site—70 years after liberation. The cultural excursions in Salzburg continue to represent a unique facet of our AYA program. Salzburg provides students in our music and art history courses with a unique context, too. June is our Mozart month as the music course tours the Mozart museums and the Festspielhaus.

Group photo in the visitors' gallery of the Reichstag in Berlin



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DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN, RUSSIAN AND EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES
103 Shatzel Hall, Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403
Phone 419-372-2268 | Fax 419-372-2571 | austria@bgsu.edu

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Knödel? Nockerl?

A new culinary excursion and personal highlight this year was the November Knödel and Nockerlfest. Do you know the difference between these two dumpling variants? Our geographers Ute Januschka and Fritz Baier volunteered to cook with our students, and we sampled over 10 different varieties on one afternoon. Needless to say, we were all content dumplings at the end of that experience.

Let me add a quick report about our service-learning/internship program. Of the 20 students in the 2014-15 group, 10 asked to be placed in professional contexts and are engaged in a range of activities at charity organizations, the Literary Archive at the University of Salzburg, Office of International Relations, Horztrattner Bakery, and at the local Bach Gesellschaft. Others are assisting in music, art or English instruction in schools or helping train locals in a basketball club. Last year, students who held a practicum presented their experiential-learning research both in Salzburg and at the annual campuswide undergraduate research conference. We look forward to research and poster presentations again this year in October when the current AYA students return to Bowling Green.

There is so much more to report, of course, but I have to leave plenty of space in this newsletter for an homage to Eva Stuppnik-Bazzanella, who, sadly, will be retiring in a few months. Thanks to our current team of Salzburg faculty: the geography team of Fritz Baier & Ute Januschka, who help make Salzburg home to our students at the very start of the Wintersemester; Hannes Baumgartner,

Art instructor Wilfried Schaber is pictured with students in the print workshop of the Trakl-Haus in Salzburg.



Geography instructor Fritz Baier offers us a taste of dumplings.

the patient guide through the grammar maze; Irene Fussl with Lina Zangerl, who ably convey their enthusiasm for Mozart and Beethoven; Helga Mitterhumer, who maintains the highest professional standards when preparing our students for the "real" world with Österreich aktuell and Deutsch Perfekt; art historian Wilfried Schaber, who teaches students to read Salzburg architecture; our Mario Wintersteiger, who masterfully negotiates our history and political science courses; and all the DaF-Team at the University of Salzburg. Also, a heartfelt thanks to Manfred Mittermayer, our trusted right hand at the University of Salzburg!

If you happen to plan a trip to Salzburg, be sure to let us know. It was a delight to meet up with former students again this year. A special guest was Dr. Brian Pavlac, who studied in Salzburg in 1976-77 and again as a grad student in 1978-79. He is a distinguished professor of history at King's College in Pennsylvania.

*Liebe Grüße aus Salzburg
Christina Guenther*

Dr. Brian Pavlac is pictured on the Georg Trakl Weg of the new university.



Frau Magister Eva Stuppnik-Bazzanella eine Legende!?

Wir waren noch jung, als Eva uns in der Mitte der siebziger Jahre des vergangenen Jahrhunderts zum ersten Mal als Kollegin, Lehrerin und bald darauf auch gute Freundin mit ihrer Gegenwart berührte. Während ich diese Worte niederschreibe, flimmert etwas Legendäres über den Bildschirm. "Vergangenes Jahrhundert...,etc." Aber zum Glück ist sie noch unter uns,



One of her last days in the classroom: Frau Mag. Stuppnik-Bazzanella.

und zwar mit beiden Beinen auf dem Boden der Realität, wie sie es immer gehalten. Sie ist keinesfalls eine Legende, das heißt "eine nicht ganz verifizierbare Geschichte aus vergangenen Zeiten," wenn wir auch jetzt in der Vergangenheit schreiben, da Eva leider in ihre wohlverdiente Pension geht. Was den Unterricht in Deutsch als Fremdsprache betraf, rauschte mit ihr auf einmal ein neuer Wind durch die Gänge und Hörsäle des damals noch ziemlich neuen Provisoriums für die Geisteswissenschaften der Universität Salzburg in der Akademiestraße.

Eva war frisch gebackene "Frau Mag.phil." für Anglistik und Germanistik, die ideale Kombination für unser damals noch in den Kinderschuhen steckendes Partnerschaftsprogramm zwischen der BGSU und der Uni Salzburg. Eva fand sich von Anfang an zu unserem AYA-Programm besonders hingezogen, denn wir meinten es ernst auf beiden Seiten. Das Erlebnis dieses Auslandsstudienjahres sollte für alle damaligen und alle späteren Studentengenerationen ein einmaliges Erlebnis der persönlichen und fachlichen Entwicklung und Bereicherung werden. Konsequentes Eintauchen in die andere Kultur, gepaart

mit optimalem Lernerfolg in der deutschen Sprache, war unsere Devise, obwohl dies bei dem dialektgefärbten Umfeld nicht immer einfach war. Persönliche Kontakte und die Förderung von Freundschaften sollten als wichtigste Hilfsleitern für den Aufstieg zum akademischen Erfolg dienen.

Voller Einsatz auf beiden Seiten, bei LehrerInnen und StudentInnen waren die wichtigste Voraussetzung, und Eva ging dabei immer allen als bestes Vorbild voran. Methodisch befand sie sich ohnehin immer auf dem neuesten Stand. Die Freundschaft zum BGSU AYA Programm intensivierte sich über die Jahre immer mehr und führte schließlich zu ihrem vorbildlichen Einsatz als assistierende Direktorin für Wohnfragen in Salzburg. Die Oberstufe wurde zu ihrer Domäne, und sie engagierte sich leidenschaftlich mit vielen Sonderkursen für die BGSU StudentInnen. Eva reiste mehrere Male zu unserem Campus in Ohio, um dort Präsentationen für aufstrebende junge LehrerInnen zu geben. Sie galt bei den StudentInnen stets als "hart aber fair", was mit zu den besten Urteilen gehört, die man einer Lehrerin ausstellen kann.

Der Erfolg gab ihr Recht. Er spiegelt sich in den vielen anerkennenden und bewundernden Stimmen vergangener Studentengenerationen wider. – Nein, Eva, du bist keine Legende, dich gibt es wirklich, und alle können von Glück sagen, mit dir in Berührung gekommen zu sein!

- Klaus M. Schmidt

Eva Stuppnik-Bazzanella with AYA students Martine Frist and Tanner Gore at the university.



Tribute to a (Living!) Legend

A quote Eva might remember: "Das Wetter ist sehr schön heute, dürfen Oscar [Retterer] und Manfred Bergsteigen und Biertrinken gehen und kein DfA machen?" – **Manfred Brockmann, 1980-81**

For some reason I don't remember attending Frau Stuppnik's class on a regular basis, but I did attend on occasion and remember her true interest in teaching and listening to our experiences as American students. She even joined us for our Thanksgiving dinner Margy organized for us in 1980. I still can envision us all gathered together sharing an American Thanksgiving dinner – as traditional as one could have in the middle of Salzburg, Austria! Enjoy your retirement, Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella! – **Sandra Allard (McCartney), 1980-81**

I just always remember her asking, "Fräulein Butler – haben Sie Ihre Hausarbeit gemacht?" – **Terri Mellick (Butler), 1980-81**

As an AYA graduate student, I knew of Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella through those from our group whom she taught in the classroom. In later years, I had the pleasure of meeting her while I was accompanying high school students participating in the BGSU Summer Program. Most recently, I was in Salzburg as the BGSU Summer Program Director (2014) and had contact with Eva Stuppnik-Bazzanella, as she was the very capable person in charge of arranging housing for the summer students. I must admit, it was a bit surreal working

with this legend. She was the no-nonsense, tireless, professional, helpful person I had heard her described as over the years. I felt very fortunate to work with her. Thank you, Eva, for your service to education, and for your dedication to the BGSU programs and the many students on whom you have made an impact for life. Best wishes for a pleasant retirement, doing what you please and enjoying every moment!

– **Linda Van Blaricom, 1980-81**

I recall that you were a very modern, enthusiastic, though sometimes challenging instructor. I remember Oscar [Retterer] flirting often, but that was just Oscar; he seemed to be everyone's favorite in the course and he would have us all smiling! Congratulations and may your retirement be just as full of cultural exchanges, adventure, surprises and magic as our 1980-81 year was!

– **Rhonda Westerhaus, 1980-81**

I reconnected with Prof. Stuppnik-Bazzanella some years after I myself had begun teaching German, when I took a BGSU summer course for German teachers in Bowling Green. I felt then that the hard work I'd invested in her course in Salzburg had reached fruition.

– **Gene Aufderhaar, 1981-82, 1984-85**

Wow, she had phenomenal energy and from the pictures I've seen still looks great. I remember a caring, intense, dedicated teacher. I knew after

the first two seconds that she was the right teacher for me. She had a great sense of humor and made me feel fortunate to be in her class.

– **David Grunwald, 1985-96**

O yes, how I remember her! I was so in love with her. I loved the way she would yell at us. One time in the language lab during the exercises, she heard a very frustrated me say the F-word many times when I gave the wrong answer or was too slow in answering. I can still remember her voice in the headset saying "tisk tisk tisk!" I wish her a long and happy retirement!

– **Rayme Marcozzi, 1985-86**

I loved Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella's classes. Her ability to teach and mesmerize a classroom full of international students from a plethora of different cultures never ceased to amaze me. When I returned to Salzburg 10 years after the first time I had taken her class, she still remembered my name. What a privilege it was to have her as a teacher.

– **Katie Ross (O'Leary), 1987-88, 1998-99**

Rob Ballarini and I invited Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella to Haus Humboldt for homemade pizza. We were so surprised when she accepted. We had a great time in the common kitchen area of the dorm and after dinner she insisted on helping us with the dishes. What an amazing professor! I will always remember her extraordinary ability to command a classroom. BGSU's AYA Austria is so fortunate to have had her expertise. She will be missed.

– **Michael Bowden, 1987-88**

She taught me how to say "Chug" in a drink. She was very kind, while demanding that we put forth our best effort – the best kind of teacher!

– **Mary Beth Backus (Dibling), 1989-90**



Washing dishes with Rob Ballarini and Tom Evans in Haus Humboldt, 1988.



With AYA students Mike Bowden and Tom Evans, 1988.

Tammy Barabash receives her Oberstufe Zeugnis, 1992.



I remember getting in trouble in Sprachlabor. She caught me just moving my lips and not saying anything. I have many fond memories of the time I spent in her courses. Too many to list. I would like to thank Prof. Stuppnik-Bazzanella for her patience and the support she gave me while I struggled with German. This played a role in my continuing study of the language.

– Tammy Kümmler (Barabash), 1989-90, 1991-92

When I was studying in Salzburg, I was hospitalized for several days. During that time, Professor Stuppnik-Bazzanella visited me. I remember one time distinctly. I was smoking in the lounge (which of course was incredibly stupid) and I heard her coming down the hall – you couldn't miss the sound of those heels. I tried to put the cigarette out and pretend I wasn't smoking, but to no avail. I got a talking to. Her perfect blend of warmth and high expectations made her one of my favorite professors of all time. She challenged me and made me better. I wish her all good things in retirement.

– Kelly Schlageter, 1990-91, 1992-93

Though I had not thought about Professor Stuppnik-Bazzanella for many years, as soon as I received news of her retirement, I was immediately back in her classroom, hearing for the first time and in context the delightful expression "hoppala." My German vocabulary had just gotten bigger. Though I don't have specific anecdotes, I still carry the crystal clear memory of a language learning classroom that worked to produce German speakers. As a language trainer myself for many years and in various contexts, I marvel now at the atmosphere Professor Stuppnik-Bazzanella was able to so skillfully create in a classroom of 30-40 people. Her domain was one where you were expected to speak German and one where the expert kindly but with no nonsense and very high expectations would equip you to do so. Professor Stuppnik-Bazzanella had that presence and quality that so few educators have today – authority. Her unapologetic

authority in her subject and in the sphere of her classroom created safe boundaries for us to step out and speak and also set clear expectations for performance. You knew that when you went out from her class you were going to speak German, and I did. Because we constantly spoke with each other as learners of German in that DaF class, I formed friendships with other non-native German speakers as well as with many native German speakers outside the classroom that would never have been possible if Professor Stuppnik-Bazzanella had not managed and carried the classroom in the way she did.

– Lori Fenneken, 1990-91

I remember asking Professor Stuppnik-Bazzanella about the consequences of cutting down a Tannenbaum in the mountains and she mentioned something like a fine and going to jail and said that it was "nicht empfehlenswert! This was all in the context of discussing the meaning of Tannenbaum. I believe this was during my first year abroad in Salzburg.

– Virginia Cooper, 1991-92, 1994-95

Of all the German instructors I had in my time as a student, Professor Stuppnik-Bazzanella had, without a doubt, the biggest impact on expanding my German skills. Her courses were challenging and even intimidating, but very rewarding. I see her often when I am in Salzburg – she does not appear to have aged a day since I had classes with her over 20 years ago and remains a formidable presence!

– Nikil Sathe, 1991-92

As an educator I have an authoritative streak. I learned it from watching Prof. Stuppnik-Bazzanella.

– Trevor Crosby, 1991-92

I remember Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella asking me:

"Und wieso können Sie so gut Deutsch sprechen, aber nicht so gut schreiben?" Remains true to this day! I first learned speaking in Schorndorf, Germany with the Simpson College professor Glenn Buhr and worked on writing second.

– Paula Sliefert, 1991-92

I loved how she started class with "Gibt es irgendwelche Fragen?" It led to so many funny exchanges, which others will hopefully share. When I started teaching, I got so many random questions in the middle of class that I began doing the same thing. I do remember once when she called me and

Virginia Cooper out for speaking English when she was on the other side of the room and we looked at each other like "How can she tell??" And she answered, "I can tell by the way your mouth is moving."

– Janet Holley, 1991-92

Von Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella weiß ich wie man Erinnerung buchstabiert, weil sie das Wort immer so klar und deutlich ausgesprochen hat. Sie hat für uns die deutsche Sprache klar und deutlich gemacht. Und ich denke immer an sie, wenn ich an das Wort Erinnerung denke--passend für heute. Sie war "no nonsense", aber ich hatte das Gefühl, sie hat sich richtig um uns gekümmert. Sie hat den Kurs nicht leichter gemacht, aber sie wollte, dass wir das schafften. Eine perfekte Mischung. Dave [Wildermuth] und ich waren beide bei ihr in der Oberstufe (aber nicht zur selben Zeit), und wir reden immer noch von ihr. Wir beide unterrichten jetzt Deutsch/Germanistik, und ich muss sagen, sie hat mich geprägt. Ich wünschte, ich könnte nur halb so gut sein wie sie. Ich wünsche ihr alles alles Gute. Die Pause hat sie gut verdient.

– Liebe Grüße von Renate Wildermuth (Muller). 1991-92, 1992-93

Obwohl sie es nicht weiß, hat Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella meinen Lebenslauf geprägt. Eines Tages bin ich zu ihr in die Sprechstunde gegangen, weil ich mit meinem Fortschritt in der Sprache nicht zufrieden war. Unser Gespräch, so kurz es auch war, ist mir bis heute in Erinnerung geblieben und hat zu meinem Entschluss beigetragen, mit dieser schwierigen Sprache nicht Schluss zu machen. Dass ich heute selber Deutschprofessor bin, muss ich auch ihr verdanken. Ihre Erklärungen über die Unterschiede zwischen den deutschen und österreichischen Kulturen waren sowohl lustig als auch aufschlussreich. Vor allem bewundere ich,



Eva with Dr. Gabriele Abermann in the Akademiestrasse-Buffer ("Aschenbecher"), 1990.

wie sie mit ihren Studenten umgegangen ist: mit Humor und Verständnis. Sie bleibt eine meiner Lieblingsprofessoren.

– David Wildermuth, 1993-94

Excellent instructor who was dedicated to the BG program and each student. Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella might recall when I once crumpled up my homework when I didn't get the grade I wanted, my formatting was much better after that! Best of luck in retirement, you'll be missed!

– Mark Hackworth, 1994-95, 1996-97

Like many others I have much to thank Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella for. I went to Salzburg with the goal of becoming a polyglot, and Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella, Stuppi – as we affectionately called her – contributed greatly to my learning German. Of course, I also met my wife in her class. It makes me glad to think of her, and in the past when I visited Salzburg I would go by Germanistik to see if I could find her. Finally I would like to say that I believe she has written a book in all her years of teaching: She was written on the pages of many, many students' lives, and I personally enjoyed the narrative that she retold and weaved into my own.

– Billy Barnes, 1995-96, 1998-99

She called on me one day and I hadn't done the homework. Her response: „Was für ein Talent.“ Stuck with me after all these years.

– Peter Doerschler, 1995-96

Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella was an inspiration and a very positive experience in my German language education. I only had her for one semester, and I learned a LOT. I especially loved the last 5-10 min. of class when we could ask anything. I have been considering teaching ESL, primarily due to the positive experience I had in her class! Happy retirement!

– Natalie Price (Ontko), Spring 1997

I fudged my placement exam results in order to get into her class (in order to stay in class with some of my new friends). Her class was the hardest German class I ever took, and I learned more in it than in any other class I have ever taken. My wife [Katie (O'Leary) Ross] and I still make regular reference to things we learned from Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella, and I am sure I would learn just as much again if ever I had the privilege of taking her class one more time.

– Kirk Ross, 1998-99

At a program party, I was busy doing some party-based work and talking to Josh Arnold. I made an off-hand comment referring to "Eva" as a joke.

I thought it was a pretty funny one but heard no chuckles. Without even looking up from my work, I said, "She is right behind me, isn't she?" Of course she was and everyone seemed to freeze in place. We were all expecting a reaction from the "head of the classroom Frau Prof. Stuppnik-Bazzanella". Thankfully for me she just chuckled and the palpable tension disappeared (much to my relief).

– Michael Lawson, 2003-04

Prof. Stuppnik-Bazzanella was incredible. I have never forgotten her or her class. She was very demanding – in the most positive way that a teacher can be – and didn't let anyone get away with anything in her class. I remember one time she was taking attendance and we were all supposed to respond when she called our names. She called a particular student's name and a friend of his responded, trying to trick her into thinking the other student was present. Without even looking up she KNEW that it wasn't the student she had called on (out of a class of 60+ students!) and made her feelings about the attempted deceit known. She expected a lot, but she was so dedicated and wanted so badly for us to learn German. I love that we even used a book that she had specially designed for our course (I still refer back to it when I'm teaching my own German classes). I wish her all the best for her retirement!!!

– Courtney Fowler (Johnson), 2003-04, 2004-05

Professor Stuppnik-Bazzanella was the first professor that I shared my engagement with. I flew home for Christmas and my boyfriend proposed while I was home. We have been married almost 9 years now and have a 5-year old son, Brenden, and a 3-year old daughter, Lorelei. I thoroughly enjoyed Professor Stuppnik-Bazzanella's class and have used what she taught me in my professional life daily!

– Libby Dulaney (Heinemann), 2004-05

The Oberstufe course with Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella was absolutely one of my favorite courses in both my undergraduate and graduate careers. I was admittedly nervous and intimidated at the beginning of the course, wondering what I had gotten myself into. I had an undergraduate degree in science and had never taken a language course on the Oberstufe and with the intensity of Stuppnik-Bazzanella before. But the anxiety and intimidation quickly changed into appreciation and determination. Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella was a demanding teacher who wanted students to do nothing short of their best work, and I respect her greatly for that. She pushed my class to work rigorously and think critically about German language structures and usage. My skin grew thicker throughout the two semesters

with her, and I learned so much from her. I still have my bright orange Oberstufe workbook and don't plan on ever throwing it away.

– Kerry Anderson, 2006-07

She was a gifted and engaging educator. I enjoyed learning about Austrian government and culture from her.

– Christina Stefanik, 2006-07

Liebe geehrte Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella, ich werde Sie nie vergessen – mit Stil, Autorität, Verständnis, Weisheit, tiefem Wissen und Humor haben Sie unterrichtet, und wir haben alle so viel in dem Jahr an Kenntnissen und Verständnis der Nuancen der deutschen Sprache gewonnen. Die Universität verliert einen leuchtenden Stern, eine einmalige Lehrerin, aber der Ruhestand ist wohl verdient, und ich wünsche Ihnen nur alles Gute.

– April Hemphill (Reiter), 2009-2010

Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella is one of the greatest professors I've had the fortune of having, and is THE greatest German teacher I've had. I am sad that I'll no longer have her as a professor when I leave Salzburg, because I've learned more here in one year than I've learned in 2 years studying German in the United States. I'll miss her knowledge of linguistics, her willingness to explain anything, and especially her demeanor! I wish Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella the best, and also a very happy retirement.

– Zachary Stein, 2014-15

Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella's willingness and ability to teach us in an environment that was challenging allowed me to learn more German than I thought possible. I have improved my German speaking and grammar skills extensively due to her ability to teach and I thank her for being able to do so. She's a wonderful teacher and very knowledgeable. I wouldn't have wanted my German learning experience to have been with anyone else.

– Christopher Perez, 2014

Frau Stuppnik-Bazzanella is one of my favorite professors at the university. She was a fair teacher who treated everybody the same and appreciated any effort. I was never scared to ask questions or make mistakes because of the pleasant atmosphere she was able to create. The Oberstufe was a challenge that helped improve my language skills immensely and I enjoyed every single class. I would like to thank her one more time for the amazing experience.

– Martina Frist, 2014-15

ALUMNI NEWS

Send us your updates at bgsu.edu/austria

We received nearly 65 responses from AYA Austria alums – from over a span of 45 years! The oldest participants have retired or are retiring, the youngest are just setting out. Allen alles Gute!

1970-71

Director Herbert Gauerke

Karlyn McPike (Korsgaard) retired in June 2014 after 42 years in education, the last 29 spent teaching German and sometimes French at Hicksville High School in Hicksville, Ohio. „I led my final student tour to Europe last summer, but am leading an adult group this summer to Budapest, Vienna, Prague, and Salzburg. I'm taking our grandsons (9 and 12) to show them Mozart's house and to meet my Austrian family. My roommate Dagmar Binter's family adopted me back in 1970 and we try to visit as often as possible.“ –In touch with Rudi Korsgaard Montgomery (1972-73), Deb Sendelbach Peters, John Thrash, David Schwartz

1974-75

Director Boris Matthews

Beverly Everett, a retired executive with the Defense Department, lives in Severn, Md. „I'm enjoying retirement after 30 years with the Defense Department. Lots of cruises, volunteering with a county nonprofit organization that supports elderly residents, going to the gym and enjoying time on my new 3-season back porch.“ –In touch with Ruta Zemaitis, Gayle Godek, Kevin Settlage

After 30 years with the Department of Defense, Bev Everett is enjoying retirement.



Manfred Brockmann family (from l-r) include Erich (28), Krysten (21), Kyle (25), Brittany (14), Christine and Manfred, 2014.

1976-77

Director Margy Gerber

Gayle Godek lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and works for the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, a metropolitan planning organization created by the federal government to do transportation and environmental planning for northeast Ohio. –In touch with Brian Pavlac, Bev Everett, Corinne McVay and Diana Akridge (the twins), Sue Arrer, Jeanine Waisala (Bartlett), Erika Janke, Mike Pearlman

1977-78

Director Helmut Gutmann

Kathy Best, Bowling Green, Ohio, has been teaching German at the University of Toledo for the last 11+ years, and before that at BGSU. After the Wende she taught English at Humboldt Universität in Berlin for a number of years. “I had the world's best beagle until she died in 2012. Now I have the world's best tortoiseshell cat. I hope to retire sooner than later and maybe go someplace where the winters aren't so brutal.“ –In touch with several people from 1980-81.

1978-79

Directors Joseph L. Gray/ Helmut Gutmann

Jim Nehring lives in Ayer, Mass., and is a professor of education at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. “Salzburg was a lifetime ago, but it was a great year and remains an important touchstone in my college experience. I lived in Belfast, Northern Ireland, last year for five months, for a Fulbright-supported research project. I was there with my wife, Laurie, and our youngest daughter, Anna, who was 17 at the time.“ –In touch with Brian Pavlac, Beverly Everett and Gayle Godek.

1980-81

Director Margy Gerber

Sandy Allard (McCartney) lives with her family in Auburn, Ohio and works in IT at Goodyear Tire & Rubber. “I actually do get to use my German on occasion when I decipher some of the SAP-Systeme, Anwendungen, Produktprogramme.“ –In touch with quite a few from our group, Egger-Lienz compatriates Linda Van Blaricom, Jennifer Braid, Marta Fischer, as well as the many who attended our reunions in 2010, and also Kathy Best.

Manfred Brockmann, lives in Milford, Pa., with his wife and four children. He is first senior vice president and chief compliance officer of Valley National Bank in New Jersey. “I never did use the German skills I learned, but the appreciation of fine food and beer has definitely come in handy.“ –In touch with Celeste Dimarco, Ellen Manning, Joe Kroboth, Ed McKenna.

Terri Butler-Melick lives with her 16-year-old son Daniel in Twinsburg, Ohio. She is director of purchasing at the Kaufman Container Co. –In touch with Heidi Pillar-Gajoch, Lori Lubinski, Karen Nitsch (Hoffman) a.o.

Eric Hise (Fall 1980) lives in Genoa, Ohio. He is retired from the insurance industry and now runs a saloon in Genoa. –In touch with Joe Kroboth, Terri Butler.

Linda Van Blaricom (grad.) lives in Bowling Green, Ohio, and taught German for many years at Bowling Green High School. She currently is an adjunct instructor of German at BGSU and has directed the AYA Summer Program in Salzburg. –In touch with most of the 1980-81 group.



Rhonda and Michael Westerhaus

Rhonda Westerhaus lives with her husband Michael (also in 1980-81 program) in Pratt, Kansas, where she is an instructor in the Department of Arts, Communication and Education (German) at Pratt Community College. Since 2005 she has restarted a career in teaching German at Pratt Community College. She organizes a student exchange with a school in Preez, Schleswig-Holstein, and serves as president of the Kansas AATG. She has participated in five AATG summer workshops in Germany, and will return to Leipzig this summer for an intensive German course. "Participating in the AYA Austria program as a couple was wonderful, but our group bonded in a way that I have not experienced since."

As several alums recalled with sadness, we recently lost two members of the 1980-81 group: Oscar Retterer (in 2013) and Paul Nagy (in 2014).

1981-82

Director Helmut Gutmann

Gene Aufderhaar, Bluffton, Ohio, is in his eighth year as a high school German teacher at Van Wert High School. As part of a Race to the Top grant, the school became a New Tech school and he is a certified New Tech facilitator, using a PBL approach to language teaching. "I get to travel to Europe whenever I co-organize school trips, but my wife Kathleen and I love to travel on our own. We had a dandy time picking up our new Porsche Boxster in Stuttgart in the summer 2014!" –In touch with Tim Moehlmann, Andrea Van Voris, Tom Edwards, Ellen Manning and many others thanks to being able to reconnect with Salzburg cronies through Facebook.

1982-83

Director Helmut Gutmann

Dan Zaremba, Phoenix, Ariz., works as an IT consultant. "I've lived in Arizona for 19 years

and have traveled back to Germany and Austria many times. I still enjoy cycling but have a BMW motorcycle that I love to ride through the southwest."

1983-84

Director John Erikson

Gerrie McManamon has been living in Columbus, Ohio, since 1993, where she teaches German and Russian. "I taught middle school German/Russian for 11 years, then moved to elementary school for 10 years, and am now back in middle school. I have been in numerous bands since moving here, playing Ska, Reggae and Blues." –In touch with Amy Thomson and Rayme Marcozzi via FB.

1984-85

Director Klaus M. Schmidt

Gene Aufderhaar (grad. – see undergrad year 1981-82)

1985-86

Director Margy Gerber

David Grunwald, Campbell, Calif., works as a software analyst. He has been married to Lisa Crane (who was also in the 85-86 program) for 25 years. –In touch with Rayme Marcozzi, Amy Wexler (Thomson).

Rayme Marcozzi lives in Modena (Italy), where he is a freelance videographer/editor and e-commerce owner. He is married to a "local." – In touch with Brian Gingerich, Amy Wexler (Thomson), Dan Zaremba, Dave & Lisa Grunwald.

Amy Wexler (Thomson) after working in a management position in Russia for 13 years – she used her German to report into Germany. She is now (happy to be) back in Toledo, where she counsels college students on their career options and strategy. –In touch with a many people on Facebook.

Dan Zaremba (grad. – see undergrad year 1982-83)

1986-87

Director Margy Gerber

Linda Kern (Frisbie) lives outside Indianapolis and works for Eli Lilly in Indianapolis, reviewing/checking reports sent to regulatory agencies and editing articles prior to submission to scientific journals.

1987-88

Director Klaus M. Schmidt

Michael Bowden, Sunbury, Ohio, works in industrial electrical sales. "I am in contact with many from the 87-88 year since we got together to celebrate our 20th in 2007."

Katie Ross (O'Leary), lives in Toledo where she is a mother and wife. "Kirk Ross and I are homeschooling our 3 daughters (14, 12, 4). German is annoyingly no longer a Geheimsprache for us. We would like the EU to allow homeschooling so we could live overseas again."

Amy Wexler (Thomson) (grad., see undergrad year 1985-86)

1989-90

Director Geoffry Howes

Mary Beth Backus (Dibling) lives in Maryland and works as a project scheduler. –In touch with Denise Schwartz Friend, Dom Marrone, Todd Ahrens, Patty Conlon, Jill Sommer, Amy Bruckner, Julie Giffin.

Tammy Kümmel (Barabash) lives with her Austrian husband in Kottlingbrunn, Niederösterreich. She teaches pre-school and kindergarten. "I returned to school many years ago in Austria to receive my degree in primary education. Since 1999 I have been teaching in a bilingual preschool/kindergarten. –In touch with Mary Beth Backus (Dibbling) and Jane Fu.

Tammy Barabash Kümmel with her husband Norbert and their daughters, Emily and Lena.



Jill Sommer lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and works as a translator. "I am a full-time German-to-English translator who works from home. I specialize in medical and computer texts, and dabble in contracts and other business documents. ... I was fortunate to live in Germany for six years... Salzburg will always have a special place in my heart, and I still think it is one of the most beautiful places on earth." –In touch with a lot of people on FB (which is really fun). "We have tracked down just about everyone."

Janet Holley and her Stafford County high school class.



1990-91

Director Klaus M. Schmidt

Lori Fenneken, Farmington Hills, Mich., works for a language training provider. "After completing my MA in TESL, and teaching ESL for a few years at BGSU and in Xi'an, China, I went on to stay in northwest China for a total of 15 years, working on various humanitarian, small business, training and research projects. In those years, I learned Mandarin and Amdo Tibetan. Now I work for a global language training service provider in metro Detroit, focusing on language training support services in the international relocation industry with frequent travel between Michigan and our offices in Shanghai, China and Hong Kong." –In touch with Kelly Schlageter.

Kelly Schlageter lives in Vienna (Virginia!) and works in communications and public relations.

1991-92

Director Margy Gerber

Tammy Barabash (grad., see undergrad year 1989-90)

Virginia Cooper, Oakland, Calif., is a freelance translator specializing in legal and pharmaceutical texts. "I'm currently attempting to move into the field of pharmaceutical patent translations." –Facebook connections with many from both undergrad and grad years in Salzburg.

Trevor Crosby (grad.) lives in Salzburg (!) and works as an English trainer in companies. "I have had a few interviews in the pharmaceutical industry and am considering taking the 'Pharmareferentenprüfung' since I was a pharma field sales representative and sales coach in the U.S. for 15 years. Previously I was in Tunisia as the director of English training for Vistaprint's Tunis branch, until a credible kidnapping threat caused an earlier than planned departure."

Janet Holley (grad.), Ruther Glen, Va., is completing her 18th year as a high school German teacher – 8 years in Williamsburg and the last 10 in Stafford County. She also taught first- and second-year German at Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg. "Many of my students have gone on to major or minor in German, and I am so proud of them!" –In touch with many from group (thanks to Facebook).

Renate Wildermuth (Muller) (grad.) lives with her husband, Dave Wildermuth, and their two children (August, 9, and Emma, 6) in Shippensburg, Pa. She

is an adjunct instructor of German at Shippensburg University and freelance writer. "I just published my second e-book called 'Home Sweet Stranger' (avail. at all online retailers). It centers around the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, so I put my MA degree from BGSU to good use." –In touch with Joe Hracs, Paula Sliefert, Janet Holly, Pat Miller.

Nikhil Sathe (grad.) lives with his wife and their two children in Athens, Ohio and Maria Alm, Salzburgerland. He is an associate professor of German at Ohio University. "I have the great pleasure and privilege of directing my university's study abroad program in Salzburg. My program regularly borrows from what I experienced as a BGSU AYA student, and I often get to see former and present BGSU directors. This year I met with Margy Gerber while on a trip to Berlin with my students and I regularly saw Christina Guenther in Salzburg. –In contact with Janet Holley, Pat Miller, Dom Marrone, Paula Sliefert, Trevor Crosby.

Paula Sliefert (grad.) lives in Maple Grove, Minn., and is senior marketing manager for the Toro Co. "The Toro Company has an international division. Although I do not work within that division. I often help my peers host customer events. I also travel to Europe once or twice a year for Toro and my German comes in handy." –Contacts too numerous to mention!

1992-93

Director Christina Guenther

Kelley Schlageter (grad. – see undergrad year 1990-91)

Renate Wildermuth (Muller) (2nd yr. grad. – see 1991-92)

1993-94

Director Geoffry Howes

David Wildermuth lives with his wife Renate (Muller) and their two children in Shippensburg, Pa., where he is an assistant professor of German at Shippensburg University. –In contact with Joe Hracs.

1994-95

Director Margy Gerber

Mark Hackworth, Columbus, Ohio, works in sales at Emerson Network Power, Liebert Services, Inc. –In contact with Paul Heinrichs, Chris Bezener.

1995-96

Director Margy Gerber

Billy Barnes lives in Tessin, Switzerland, where he is an English and German teacher. "I have 2 wonderful children with a most wonderful woman, whom I met in Oberstufe. I teach English and sometimes German in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland, where I have learned the local language and for the most part understand the dialect."

Virginia Cooper (grad. – see undergrad year 1991-92)

Peter Doerschler (grad.) lives in Bloomsburg, Pa., where he is a professor of political science at Bloomsburg University. He is preparing for a sabbatical in Germany and Austria in 2016-17. –In contact with Karen Gedeon.

1996-97

Director Klaus M. Schmidt

Mark Hackworth (grad. – see undergrad year 1994-95)

1997-98

Director Christina Guenther

Ian Keil lives with his Ecuadorian wife in Quito. He is a professor of international relations at La Universidad de las Americas. "My undergrad time is Salzburg seems like four or five lifetimes ago, but it was a great time in my life....Life takes you in different directions. Here I am teaching in a small Latin American country. Life is an adventure and I'm glad it started in Salzburg."

Robert Meehan (grad., Fall 1997) lives in Silver Springs, Fla., and is retired from ESL teaching, mainly in Arabic-speaking countries.

1998-99

Director Geoffry Howes

Billy Barnes (grad. – see undergrad year 1995-96)

Katie Ross (O'Leary) (grad. – see undergrad year 1987-88)

Kirk Ross (grad.) lives with his wife Katie (O'Leary) and their children in Toledo. He is an attorney.

1999-2000

Director Kristie Foell

Jennie Zibbel (Maas), Bloomdale, Ohio, is a ballet instructor. She has three children, Nina (11), Jakob (8) and Nickolaus (6).

2003-04

Director Edgar Landgraf

Courtney Fowler (Johnson) lives in Salzburg and is a Ph.D. student at Pennsylvania State University. –In touch with Mike and Claudia Lawson, Don Vosburg, Julie Langan-Perez.

Michael Lawson lives in Wels, Oberösterreich, and is an international sales representative. –In touch with John Klein, Courtney Fowler, Bobby Blankenship.

Lisa Yunker lives in Toledo, Ohio, where she is a bank manager. –In touch with Mike Lawson, Lindsay Leguillion.

2004-05

Director Theodore Rippey

Libby Dulaney (Heinemann) lives in Pemberville, Ohio, where she is a German teacher.

Courtney Fowler (Johnson) (grad. - see undergrad year 2003-04)

Dana Lockhart (grad.), Lexington, Ky., is an ordained pastor and campus minister at St. Augustine's Chapel, University of Kentucky. "I married my wife Rebecca in January 2007 (we were engaged during my AYA year). I then completed my MA in German at the University of Kentucky and attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio from 2007-2011. I taught German part-time for a frontier school system while serving as a pastor in South Dakota. My daughter Beatrice was born in 2012. We returned to Kentucky in August, 2014. I would love to hear from others." –In touch with Elisa Dobler, Brad Goodwin, Sara Jerdan.

2005-06

Director Christina Guenther

Kyle Greetham (2006), Atlanta, Ga., is a communications manager for Wolfvision USA (an Austrian company). "I miss Hacı's kebabs on the way back from school." –In touch with a few from my undergrad, many from my grad year via Facebook.

Jennifer Hesse (grad.) lives in Richland, Wash., and is a German teacher. –In touch with Beth Atkins.

Allison Smith (grad.) lives in California where she is a high school German teacher.

2006-07

Director Kristie Foell

Kerry Anderson (grad.) lives in Portland, Maine, and works as a waitress at a German restaurant, kayak instructor support and former German teacher and tutor.

Christina Stefanik (grad.), Stony Ridge, Ohio, is director of The Language Company-Toledo, an accredited ESL school for international adult students.

2007-08

Director Edgar Langraf

Kyle Greetham (grad. – see undergrad year 2006)

2008-09

Director Theodore Rippey

Dylan Martin (grad.) lives in New York City and is a project coordinator at R.R. Donnelley Language Solutions. –In touch with Kenny Fritjofson, Tim Cable a.o.

2009-10

Director Christina Guenther

Katie Portnoy (grad.) lives in Boston and is a translation project manager. –In touch with Jessie Strains, Ben Metz.

April Hemphill (Reiter) lives in New Jersey where she is program coordinator for the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). She married George Hemphill in 2013. –In touch with Andrea Weatherman, a few others via Facebook.

2010-11

Director Kristie Foell

Molly Rowland lives in Charlotte, N.C., where she is a high school German teacher. "I will be taking my students to Salzburg and we will be staying at Sankt Sebastian! I lived there during my year abroad and cannot wait to share Salzburg with my students!" –In touch with Kristen Oviatt.

2011-12

Director Edgar Landgraf

Alexander McCollum lives in Bowling Green, Ohio. –In touch with Nick Rybak, Cynthia Porter, Seth Hobson.

Kasarah Menegon (grad.) lives in Lexington, S.C., and is a German teacher at Lexington Middle School.

2013-14

Directors Christina Guenther/ Geoffry Howes

Lorena Haberern (2014) lives in Collingswood, N.J. She is an undergraduate student at BGSU. "After graduating from college, I will return to Europe as an au pair in Germany." –In touch with Kyle Crider, Emily Skorupski, Shaydon Ramey, Eric Liddy, Paul Rowinsky.

William Whitesmith (2014), lives in Westerville, Ohio, and is an undergraduate student at BGSU. To his fellow AYA students who are graduating: "I wish you all the very best....you made my time here [at BGSU] and in Austria very special."

2014-15

Director Christina Guenther

Chris Perez (2014) lives in Ames, Iowa, is currently a student looking into grad schools. –in touch with: all AYA students in fall semester 2014. "I gained many friends for life through AYA."

Zachary Stein is an undergraduate student living in Salzburg for the 2014-15 year.

Martina Frist (grad.) finished her MA in Salzburg this spring semester.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Margy Gerber

I've been living in Berlin since my retirement from BGSU (nearly 20 years ago). As a "Wahlberlinerin" I'm enjoying the vast cultural offerings of this dynamic city, as well as the easy access to the lakes, Wander- and Radwege of surrounding Brandenburg. I also spend a good deal of time in Sweden. My special literary interests are the so-called Dritte Generation Ost, i.e., young writers who were born in the GDR and had to adapt to the Western system, and "post-migrant" writers from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, who live in Germany or Austria and write in German. AYA Austria alumni planning a trip to Berlin should let me know, perhaps we can get together. e-mail: mgerber@bgsu.edu

Joseph L. Gray III

I'm living in Lakewood, Ohio, near my two sons Jason and Jonathan. Jason works as a development officer at the Case Western University School of Medicine, where his older daughter Caroline has just finished her freshman year. Jonathan moved with me to Lakewood, and has started his own not-for-profit service organization called "Trials for Hope." I, for my part, am volunteering at our local food pantry and tutoring. I don't do much on Facebook, but my e-mail address is prof111@aol.com.

Geoffrey Howes

I retired from BGSU this May. I plan to stay in Bowling Green and continue translation, scholarship, and other writing projects—and travel. In 2014 I published two books of fiction in translation: *The Whole of Life* by Jürg Laederach and *Three Women* by Robert Musil. I'm a member of a busy ukulele-and-vocal quartet, "The Grande Royale Ukulelists of the Black Swamp" (GRÜBS). My wife Christen Giblin continues to work for NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) and the Wood County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board. Our son Coleman graduated from BGSU in 2010 with a degree in political science, worked several years as a political organizer, and will receive his Master's of Public Policy from the University of Chicago in June.

Edgar Landgraf

I was promoted to full professor in 2013. I'm currently working on a book project on "Nietzsche's Posthumanism." I will direct Bowling Green's summer program in Salzburg this year and then the 2015-16 AYA program (for a 5th time). Angela is a social worker for the Area Office on Aging. The boys are doing great. They were both student of the month this year (Allan twice), play music (both saxophone, Allan also guitar and bass, Alex piano), and love soccer. Allan is also running track (fastest over the mile in his school, 5:07 at the final meet) and cross country. We are all looking forward to returning to Salzburg. The boys will be in the Akademisches Gymnasium (5. und 3. Klasse).

Klaus M. Schmidt

Since my retirement from BGSU in 1998, Ingrid and I have been living in Ann Arbor, Mich., where I taught as adjunct professor at the University of Michigan until 2001. In 2002 the Middle High German Conceptual Database MHDBDB, which I developed over many years and continue to direct, was moved from BGSU to the University of Salzburg. Since 2002 we have been spending the winter months alternately in Mexico and Salzburg. I continue to work in the areas of computer lexicography and medieval German language and literature, and in theater and film. I recently co-authored (with Heinz-Uwe Haus) the book *Die Macht und der Verlust der Seele. Anlauf – Schwarze Sonne – Hard Way. Trilogie der Suche nach einer neuen Welt. Drama und Kritik* (2014).

AYA Austria Alumni Advisory Board

The Austria Alumni Board is a representative group of alumni members that consults on improving study abroad experiences of students in BGSU programs in Austria. The board was formed in 2010. Current members are:

- Gene Aufderhaar – 1981/82, 1984-85
- Tara Campbell – 1993-94
- Dr. Margy Gerber – Faculty representative
- Galen Koepke – 1971-72
- Dr. Ellen Manning Nagy – 1980-81, 1983-84
- Dr. Judi Lindsley Nath – 1987-88
- Dr. Brian Pavlac – 1976-77, 1978-79

AYA Austria newsletters available online

The AYA Austria program has a history of success at Bowling Green State University. Now, a look at each of the year's information can be found online. All of the AYA Austria newsletters from 1971 through 2013 have been added to the BGSU AYA Austria website. The newsletters have been digitalized and can be read or downloaded from the Newsletter Archive available at www.bgsu.edu/AYAnewsletters.



Students Benefit from Shllaku and Foell Awards

The Department of German, Russian, East Asian Languages gratefully acknowledges the donors to the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund and the Foell International Travel Award Fund. Their generosity enabled four students to live and study in Salzburg in 2014-15. For the 2015-16 academic year a total of seven students have been awarded scholarships for the AYA Austria program, four from the Shllaku Fund and three from the Foell International Travel Fund.

Donors to the Shllaku Scholarship Fund 2014-15

The 2014-15 donors to the Shllaku Fund are listed below.

Mrs. Heather Burke
Mrs. Courtney Fowler
Dr. Margy Gerber
Mr. Steven Harris
Ms. Lisa Heinrich
Ms. Gail Juanoquez
Mr. Galen Koepke/Mrs. Katja Koepke
KPMG Foundation
Mr. Daniel McMackin
Dr. Brian Pavlac/Dr. Elizabeth Lott
Mr. James Peters/Mrs. Debra Peters
Mr. Brett Porter/Mrs. Katherine Porter
Ms. Jill Sommer
Mr. E. Kirk Ross/Mrs. Kate Ross
Dr. William Weis/Mrs. Marilyn Roy
Mr. Larry Snavley/Mrs. Ida Snavley
Mrs. Vickie Sherwood
Ms. Paula Sliefert
Ms. Hildegard Zeglen

The Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund, which was established in 1998 by former students of Dr. Shllaku, supports undergraduate BGSU students in all majors. Endowed in 2003, it has recently awarded scholarships of \$1000 for the academic year, \$700 for one semester.

Donors to the Foell Travel Award Fund 2014-15

Darrell W. Foell/Sally A. Foell

The Foell Travel Award Fund, which was created in memory of Margaret Kaesmann Foell, supports students from any university for study with BGSU's AYA Austria program and is based on merit. It has recently awarded scholarships of \$850.

Contributions to the funds can be made at www.bgsu.edu/give.

Stipend Recipients 2014-2015

Read their statements below:

SHLLAKU AWARD RECIPIENTS

Molly Closson – Junior, German Education, BGSU

Through the help of the Shllaku Fund, I am spending a wonderful, adventurous, successful and most memorable year abroad in Salzburg, Austria. I have learned so much more about myself, Austrian culture and other cultures, and I have improved my German in more ways than I could have ever imagined. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will leave me forever a changed person: a person who is more open-minded and empathetic towards others. Everything that I have seen and learned here can only benefit me in my future endeavors. Participating in this program is truly a blessing and an opportunity that I hope



Molly Closson explores the nature that Salzburg offers at the Glasebachklamm.

many more will also be able to take advantage of in the future. Thank you for this amazing opportunity!

Molly Shea – Graduating Senior, German/English, BGSU

My experience in Salzburg and abroad was—as clichéd as it sounds—a truly profound and life-changing experience. Living and learning in a new culture not only taught me many things I could not learn in a textbook, but it gave me a new perspective on my own way of life and culture. The fun of snowshoeing through the Alps, the novelty of eating my first kebab, and the shock and awesome feeling of finally having the language “click” in my brain are just a few of the countless moments that made my experience something as memorable as it was significant. I am wholeheartedly thankful to the donors that helped make this trip possible, for, without my scholarship I most definitely could not have attended and would have missed out on something that I believe has in many ways helped begin a new chapter in my life.

FOELL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Christopher Perez – Junior, Political Science/German, Iowa State University

I cannot begin to explain how much this experience has impacted my life. The friends that I have met through this experience in Salzburg are going to stay with me for many years to come. Not only have I met lifelong friends, but I have also found my true purpose. Before studying abroad, I had no idea what I really wanted to do with my degree. The typical idea of going to law school was tossed around, but I was not entirely passionate about it. It was not until I got to Berlin and then Salzburg that I realized how much of the German and Austrian culture and language I love. Fast-forward to now and I know that I want to pursue a masters and then PhD in German. My hope is to one day become a professor so I am able to share my passion with other students like myself and encourage them to not only learn German, but to become global citizens as well. This experience and realization of my goals in life would not have been possible without not only the AYA program, but also the Foell scholarship I was able to receive. This scholarship aided me in discovering my passion for the German language and culture and I am forever grateful to those who contributed to this scholarship. Being in Salzburg was an unforgettable experience and I will never forget the impact that my time there had on my life.

Jacob Weinmann – Junior, Political Science/German, BGSU

I would once again like to thank the donors personally for their generous contribution to the AYA Salzburg and/or summer program. While living abroad for a calendar year you learn many new things about yourself and the world around you. I came to Europe with the intent of becoming more outward and social, expanding my current network, traveling alone to new places, and of course to become more proficient in German. While some of these categories have improved more than others, I feel that the groundwork has been laid for success in my continuing education in the German language, as well as for a successful business career. I hope that BGSU can continue to provide this program for those who are interested, and possibly expand it in order to make it more appealing to those who are not German majors. Your help is greatly appreciated.